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In re Patent Application of: Steven Jecha et al.

Title: ADMINISTRATION AND SEARCH AND REPLACE OF COMPUTERIZED PREPRESS

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PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

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CONTINUATION-IN-PART (CIP) of prior Patent Application No. 08/982,438 (under 37 CFR § 1.53(b)) comprising:

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ADMINISTRATION AND SEARCH AND REPLACE OF COMPUTERIZED PREPRESS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part to the copending and coassigned application
5 entitled "Computerized Prepress," filed December 2, 1997, serial no. 08/982,438, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to print and print-publishing prepress, and more
10 particularly to such prepress that is computerized.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The publishing process typically requires several steps to successfully complete a printed publication. Such steps include planning and organizing, design and content development, and
15 prepress tasks where electronic files are prepared to be reproduced with ink on paper. Broadly speaking, prepress involves the preparation of all the electronic files that will be utilized to create a publication printed with paper and ink. For a professional publication, this usually involves utilizing an authoring program to create the electronic version of the publication itself, and then using another program (which may be a component of the authoring program), to translate this
20 electronic version into a format from which paper and ink copies of the publication can be printed.

Portions if not all of the prepress process is difficult for non-professionals to accomplish, however. While tools such as Adobe PageMaker and Quark Express enable professionals to more easily create professional-looking documents, most non-professionals find these computer
25 programs overly complex and difficult to use. That is, although the computers sitting on the desks of such non-professionals are sufficiently powerful to handle such tasks, the users themselves may not be sufficiently knowledgeable to perform them. Furthermore, even for experienced professionals, the prepress process is fraught with uncertainty; for example, the professional must know the type of paper and ink output that is desired a priori before translating
30 an electronic version of a document into a format from which paper and ink copies can be

printed. That is, even for experienced professionals, the prepress process is not tightly integrated enough to attain fast, easy and cost-effective print publishing.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The above-identified shortcomings as well as other shortcomings and problems are addressed by the present invention, which will be understood by reading and studying the following specification. In one embodiment, a computerized prepress system includes four components: a server, a first client, a second client, and a printer. The server has stored thereon an authoring program to create a document template, and a translation program to translate a document based on the document template to a suitable prepress format. The first client downloads the authoring program from the server to create the document template, and then uploads the document to the server. The second client creates the document based on the document template, which is uploaded to the server for translation to the suitable prepress format. The printer receives the document as translated to the suitable prepress format from the server, such that the printer may then print copies of the document.

More specifically, in one particular embodiment of the invention, the authoring program is written in the programming language Java, and the client, server and printer are each connected to an intranet the Internet. Thus, an administrative user at the client needs only to run a web browser program, such as Netscape Navigator, to access the server and download and run the authoring program. This user creates a document template. Another user then can use a web browser program to create a document based on the template. The server may then as required translate the document into a suitable prepress format -- such as PostScript -- and send it to the printer (e.g., as a MIME-compliant electronic mail) for printing.

In different embodiments of the invention, computerized methods, computerized systems, computers, and computer-readable media of varying scope are described. Still other and further embodiments, aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent by reference to the drawings and by reading the following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a computer in conjunction with which embodiments of the invention may be implemented;

5 FIG. 2 is a diagram of a computerized prepress system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a diagram of a computerized prepress method in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

FIGs. 4a-4m are diagrams of screens displayed on a display device of a computer in conjunction with one embodiment of the invention; and,

10 FIGs. 5a-5d are diagrams of screens displayed on a display device of a computer in conjunction with one embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 In the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific preferred embodiments in which the inventions may be practiced. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that logical, mechanical and electrical changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of 20 the present invention. The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the present invention is defined only by the appended claims.

25 Referring first to FIG. 1, a diagram of a computer in conjunction with which embodiments of the invention may be implemented is shown. Computer 110 is operatively coupled to display device 112, pointing device 114, and keyboard 116. Computer 110 includes a processor (preferably, an Intel Pentium processor), random-access memory (RAM) (preferably, at least thirty-two megabytes), read-only memory (ROM), and one or more storage devices, such as a hard disk drive, a floppy disk drive (into which a floppy disk can be inserted), an optical disk drive, and a tape cartridge drive. The memory, hard drives, floppy disks, etc., are types of 30 computer-readable media. The hard drives and floppy disks are more specifically types of

nonvolatile store media. Computer programs running on the computer are executed by the processor from the computer-readable media. The invention is not particularly limited to any type of computer 110. Computer 110 preferably is a PC-compatible computer or a MacOS-compatible computer. The construction and operation of such computers are well known within

5 the art.

Furthermore, computer 110 may be communicatively connected to the Internet via a communication device, any particular manner by which the invention is not limited to, and which is not shown in FIG. 1. Internet connectivity is well known within the art. In one embodiment, the computer includes a communication device that is a modem and corresponding communication drivers to connect to the Internet via what is known in the art as a "dial-up connection." In another embodiment, the computer includes a communication device that is an Ethernet or similar hardware (network) card to connect to a local-area network (LAN) that itself is connected to the Internet via what is known in the art as a "direct connection" (e.g., T1 line, etc.).

Computer 110 also has at least one operating environment running thereon, each desirably providing a graphical user interface including a user-controllable pointer. Such operating environments include operating systems such as versions of the Microsoft Windows and Apple MacOS operating systems known in the art. The invention is not limited to any particular operating environment, however, and the construction and use of such operating environments are well known within the art. Computer 110 also desirably has at least one web browser application program running with at least one operating environment, to permit users of computer 110 to access intranet or Internet world-wide-web pages as addressed by Universal Resource Locator (URL) addresses. Such browser application programs include Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Display device 112 permits the display of information, including computer, video and other information, for viewing by a user of the computer. The invention is not limited to any particular display device 112. Such display devices include cathode ray tube (CRT) displays (monitors), as well as flat panel displays such as liquid crystal displays (LCD's). Pointing device 114 permits the control of the screen pointer provided by the graphical user interface of operating systems such as versions of Microsoft Windows. The invention is not limited to any particular

pointing device 114. Such pointing devices include mouses, touch pads, trackballs, remote controls and point sticks. Finally, keyboard 116 permits entry of textual information into computer 110, as known within the art, and the invention is not limited to any particular type of keyboard.

5 Referring next to FIG. 2, a diagram of a computerized system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention is shown. Each of first client computer 200, second client computer 201, server computer 202, and printer computer 204 is a computer, such as that shown in and described in conjunction with FIG. 1, although the invention is not so limited. Thus, each of first client computer 200, second client computer 201, server computer 202, and printer computer 204 has a processor, a computer-readable medium from which computer programs are 10 executed by the processor, and a communications device, such as a network card, or a modem. First client computer 200, second client computer 201, server computer 202, and printer computer 204 are communicatively coupled to one another via the Internet 206. Note that in one embodiment, Internet 206 is replaced by an extranet or an intranet, as known within the art, and 15 as may be found in corporate and other environments.

Server computer 202 is desirably an extranet, intranet or Internet world-wide-web server, as known in the art, such that it has assigned thereto a Universal Resource Locator (URL) address to permit client computer 200 and client computer 201, as well as other computers, to access the server. The invention is not particularly limited to a type of server 202. Typical 20 examples include those running software available from Netscape, Microsoft, Apache, NCSA, and others. Server 202 is also not limited to running on a particular operating system (OS); common operating systems including Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Windows NT, Apple MacOS and UNIX.

Server computer 202 has stored thereon authoring program 208. Authoring program 208 25 is downloaded from server 202 by and to client 200 through the Internet 206, although this is more directly represented by arrow 210. Authoring program 208 desirably is run within operating environment 212 running on client 200. Such an operating environment 212 includes those provided by extranet, intranet and Internet world-wide-web browser programs such as Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator. For example, in one embodiment, 30 authoring program 208 is coded in the programming language Java, such that program 208 is a

Java applet that is downloaded through the Internet by client 200, and runs within an operating environment 212 that is a browser program that is Java capable. In other embodiments of the invention, authoring program 208 may be coded in the programming language Perl, C, C++, ActiveX, or other programming languages; the invention is not so limited.

5 Authoring program 208 is used within first client computer 200 to create document template 214. Document template 214 is a document created by the administrative user of computer 200, using authoring program 208. The invention is not limited to any type of authoring program 208; in one embodiment of the invention, authoring program 208 is that which is shown in and will be described in conjunction with FIGs. 4a-4m.

10 Once document template 214 has been created at first client 200, it is uploaded to server 202 for saving at the server, through the Internet 206. Document template 214 is saved at the server 202 on a non-volatile storage device of the server, such as a hard disk drive. It is saved in an internal file format that maximizes efficiency in the storage of the document.

15 Furthermore, the second client computer 201 creates the document 215 from the document template 214. It does this by downloading the document 215 from server 202 through the Internet 206. The second client computer also has an operating environment running thereon, not shown in the figure, comparable to the operating environment 212 of the first client computer 200 includes those provided by extranet, intranet and Internet world-wide-web browser programs such as Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

20 The document template 214 may have fixed information, such as logos, images, fonts, and positions of text information, and the logos and images. The document 215 is created in one of at least two ways. First, the user of the second client computer 201 may also download the authoring program, and use it to create the document 215, within the constraints allowed by the document template 214. Second, the user of the second client computer 201 may be queried to 25 submit information for a form having tags corresponding to criteria of the document template 214. For example, the criteria may include the user's first name, last name, phone number, etc. The user types in his or her information corresponding to these criteria. A search and replace is then performed, replacing the criteria with the information entered by the user. The tags of the form indicate which information is to replace which criteria. In one embodiment, the form is an 30 HTML form, which can be modified via a web browsing program as known in the art. As to the

use of an authoring program by this (end) user, the authoring program may be as described later in conjunction with FIGs. 4a-4m. As to the use of entering in information into a form by the end user, the entering of information may be as described later in conjunction with FIGs. 5a-5d.

The invention is also not limited to any particular document 214. In one embodiment of the invention, document 214 is a business card; however, other documents amenable to the invention include self-adhesive notes (such as those available from 3M, Inc., as Post-It notes), letterheads, pamphlets, brochures, envelopes, etc.

Once document 215 has been created, it is uploaded to server 202 for saving at the server, through the Internet 206. Document 214 is saved at the server 202 on a non-volatile storage device of the server, such as a hard disk drive. It is saved in an internal file format that maximizes efficiency in the storage of the document. Once the document 215 is ready to be sent to a printer for printing and publication (as may be indicated by client 200 to server 202), server 202 runs translation program 218 on document 215 (program 218 being stored on server 202) as saved in the internal file format to generate a translated document 220, as represented by arrow 222. The translation program 218 translates document 214 into a file format suitable for prepress, such as PostScript. Other file formats suitable for prepress include XML, HTML, PDF, and PostScript extreme, as known within the art. Translation program 218 performs any color separations, or other operations as required by the suitable prepress file format. The invention is not limited to any particular suitable prepress file format.

Server 202 then transmits the translated document 220 through the Internet 206 to printer 204, as more directly represented by arrow 224. In one embodiment, this is accomplished by server 202 attaching the translated document 220 as an attachment file to a MIME-compliant electronic mail, which may then be sent to the electronic mail address of printer 204. However, the invention is not limited to any manner by which such transmission occurs. Once the printer 204 has received the translated document 220, document 220 may then be printed and published as needed.

Referring next to FIG. 3, a flowchart of a computerized method according to an embodiment of the invention is shown. This method is inclusive of the steps or acts required to be taken by a client computer, a server computer, and a printer computer to create a document at the client computer, for translation by the server computer, and for printing at the printer

computer, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. These steps or acts are performed in accordance with one or more computer programs, such as authoring programs, and translation programs, as have been described in conjunction with FIG. 2. The embodiment of the invention described in conjunction with FIG. 3 refers to the situation where the client, the server and the printer are communicatively coupled to one another through the Internet, where the client is running a web browser program and the server is a web server; however, the invention is not so limited.

In step 300, the first client computer accesses the web site of the web server, as referenced by a URL address, through its web browser program, and logs onto the web server.

Logging on to the server desirably includes submitting user information regarding the administrative user at the client, such as the a user's name and password. Once the server has received this information, it authenticates the administrative user, looking up the user information submitted to determine whether such a user exists, and whether the password for the user is correct. Authentication also includes associating the user with a particular directory on the server computer (e.g., on which to store the documents created by the user), a set of defaults regarding options available to the user within the authoring program (e.g., fonts, colors, images and commands), and an authorization level. The authorization level dictates what the user is permitted to do within the program; for example, the "administrator" may be permitted to access anyone's documents within the administrator's work group.

In step 302, the first client downloads the authoring program from the server. As has been described, in one embodiment the authoring program is coded in Java, such that the program is a Java applet running within the browser program of the client. In step 304, the first client then uses the authoring program to create a document template, such as a business card, a letterhead, etc. The creation of the document template involves determining which logos and images are to be fixed in any document created therefrom, as well as the font type and sizes, as well as position of allowable text entry, for any document created therefrom. Once the document template has been created, the first client selects a save command, which uploads the document template to the server, where it is saved, in step 306.

In 307, a document is created based on the document template. This involves a second client computer accessing the web site of the web server, through its web browser program, and

logging onto the web server as has been described. The user of the second client is then
authenticated at the server computer. The second client can create the document based on the
document template in at least one of two ways. First, the second client can download the
authoring program, as has been described, from the server program, and using the authoring
5 program to create a document consistent with and based on the document template. This means
that the user of the second client is only able to enter in and change information present as
prescribed by the document template. For example, the logo and any images of the document
template may be fixed in the template, such that the user in creating his or her document may not
alter, move or delete them. As another example, the document template may indicate what
10 information can be entered by the user, and where this information is to be positioned on the
document -- such as the user's name, telephone number, address, title, etc. The document
template may also fix the font type and size of this textual information.

A second way a client can create the document based on the document template is to
download a form, such as an HTML form, through its web browser program, where the form has
15 tags corresponding to criteria in the document template. The tags may be HTML tags, for
instance. The criteria may indicate information such as the user's first name, middle initial, last
name, telephone number, company name, fax number, address, title, etc. The user through the
web browser program then enters in information corresponding to the tags of the HTML form.
The criteria in the document template are then replaced with the corresponding information
20 entered to create the document based on the document template.

Once the document has been created, the second client selects a save command, which
uploads the document to the server, where it is saved. Furthermore, once the document is in final
form according to the user, the user selects a print command in step 308. This signals the server
to translate the document into a suitable prepress format, such as PostScript, or another format as
25 previously described, and send the document to the printer computer in step 310, such as an
electronic mail attachment. Thus, the internal format in which the document is saved in step 306
is different than the format to which the document is translated in step 308 and sent to the printer
in step 310. Once the printer receives the document, the document may then be printed and
published.

30 Referring next to FIGs. 4a-4m, diagrams of screens displayed on a display device of a

computer in conjunction with one embodiment of the invention are shown. More particularly, the diagrams are screens regarding an authoring program according to one embodiment of the invention. The authoring program may be for either an administrative user to create a document template, or an (end) user to modify a document template as so permitted to create a document.

5 Referring first to FIG. 4a, within display device 400 is operating environment window 402 within which the authoring program runs. Specifically, operating environment window 402 is part of a web browser program, such as Netscape Navigator. The authoring program is a Java applet that runs within the web browser. The authoring program includes six primary areas: menu bar 404, tool bar 406, orientation bar 408, work area 410, color palette area 412, and properties area 414. The user of the computer utilizes tool bar 406, orientation bar 408, menu bar 10 404, color palette area 412, and properties area 414 as tools to create a document within work area 410. Work area 410 is sized in accordance with the type of document to be created. For example, as shown in FIG. 4a, the type of document to be created is a business card. The properties area 414 shows commands that may be used in conjunction with the currently selected 15 tool from tool bar 406.

Clicking “file” on menu bar 404 drops down the file menu, as shown in FIG. 4b. The file menu permits a user to create a new document, such as a business card, letterhead, or envelope, insert an image, open or save a document, revert the current work area to the document as most recently saved, or print to a file (i.e., cause the translation program to be run). The images are 20 saved as files on the server in a particular format, such as encapsulated PostScript, TIFF, GIF, and JPEG. Desirably, the images have a maximum resolution of 1:1, to minimize the size of the encapsulated PostScript file (or file in another format). Opening or saving a document retrieves or stores a document, respectively, on a computer-readable medium of the server. Printing the document to a file causes the translation program to run, such that the file is translated to a 25 format suitable for prepress, and then sent to the printer.

Clicking “View” on menu bar 404 drops down the view menu, as shown in FIG. 4c. The view menu permits a user to call up different tools of the authoring program, which may have become hidden from view (e.g., by previous user choice), or previously unselected by the user. Selecting “Toolbar” calls up tool bar 406. Selecting “Move to Front/Move to Back” calls up 30 orientation bar 408. Selecting “Color Palette” brings up color palette area 412. Selecting

“Properties” brings up properties area 414. Selecting “Rulers” brings into view rulers 416 and 414, each on a side of work area 410. Finally, selecting “Grid” causes a grid to be superimposed on work area 410 (not shown in FIG. 4c).

Clicking “Edit” on menu bar 404 drops down the edit menu, as shown in FIG. 4d. The edit menu permits a user to cut, copy, paste selected elements (i.e., objects) within work area 410, or select all the elements, such that the user is then able to cut, copy, or paste all the elements. The cut, copy, and paste commands thus operate as known to those of ordinary skill within the art.

Color palette area 412 is described in conjunction with FIG. 4e. The user is able to select both stroke and fill color from a menu of predetermined colors. The stroke color refers to the color in which the boundaries of a particular object is drawn within work area 410 (not shown in FIG. 4e), while the fill color refers to the color inside the boundaries of the particular object within work area 410. Colors may be added within the menu of predetermined colors by defining a new color, accomplished by pressing the define new colors button, which brings up window 418. Within the window, the user is able to select new colors, which are desirably the entire palette of colors available from Pantone, as known within the art. In other embodiments, colors are selected from palettes of colors available from Toyo, Focaltone, or Tru-match, as also known within the art.

Referring next to FIG. 4f, selecting the arrow tool on tool bar 406 allows the user to select an object within work area 410. Selecting the circle tool on tool bar 406 enables a user to create a circle or oval, such as that shown in work area 410 in FIG. 4f. Referring next to FIG. 4g, selecting the rectangle tool on tool bar 406 permits a user to create a rectangle, such as that shown in work area 410 in FIG. 4g. Referring next to FIG. 4h, selecting the line tool on tool bar 406 enables a user to create a line, such as that shown in work area 410 in FIG. 4h. In the creation of a circle, rectangle, or line, the authoring program performs the creation of the particular object (e.g., the circle, the rectangle, or the line) itself, and does not consult the server to determine the manner in which the object is to be created.

Conversely, selecting the text tool on tool bar 406 causes the authoring program to first allow the user to input the text to be entered on work area 410, displaying the text in a rough manner. Next, the authoring program sends the text to the server, which translates the text into

an image, desirably an image in GIF format and having a maximum resolution of 4:1, which is then sent back to the client for display on work area 410. (Other image formats include JPEG and TIFF; the invention is not so limited.) This is shown in conjunction with FIG. 4i and 4j. In FIG. 4i, the user has entered the text string “Hello world” but has not yet pressed return; 5 therefore, the text string is shown in a rough manner. Once the user presses return, the client sends the text string to the server for conversion to an image, which is then sent to the client and displayed on work area 410, as is shown in FIG. 4j. The reason this is accomplished is that different computers have different font generation engines, while the authoring program is desirably a what-you-see-is-what-you-get (WYSIWYG) program, showing the user on the 10 display device exactly what will be printed at the printer.

Referring next to FIG. 4k, selecting the zoom tool on tool bar 406 enables a user to zoom in and out on the document within work area 410, as is shown in FIG. 4k. Referring to FIG. 4l, 15 selecting the color picker tool (tool 450) on tool bar 406 enables a user to set a color within color palette area 412 to that of a current object within work area 410. For example, clicking within object 452 in work area 410 while using the color picker tool sets the current fill color to that of the fill color of object 452. This enables users to precisely set a color to an already existing color within the document, which is especially advantageous in situations where there are multiple shades of one color in a document, which may be difficult to discern.

Selecting the top icon within orientation bar 408 brings the currently selected object 20 within area 410 to the front of other objects. For example, as shown in FIG. 4l, selecting the top icon while object 452 is selected (as denoted by dots outlining the rectangular boundary of the object) brings object 452 to the front, over the other object within the work area (e.g., object 454). Conversely, selecting the bottom icon within orientation bar 408 moves the currently 25 selected object within area 410 to the back of other objects. For example, as shown in FIG. 4m, selecting the bottom icon while object 452 is selected moves object 452 to the back, behind the other object within the work area (e.g., object 454).

It is noted that with respect to the creation of a document based on a document template, 30 the diagrams of screens of FIGs. 4a-4m relate to only one way by which a user can create such a document based on a template. The invention is not so particularly limited. Another way is shown by reference to FIGs. 5a-5d, which are diagrams of screen displayed on a display device

of a computer in conjunction with one embodiment of the invention are shown. More particularly, the diagrams are screens regarding the filling in of forms to create a document from a document template, according to one embodiment of the invention.

Referring first to FIG. 5a, within display device 500 is operating environment window 502. Specifically, operating environment window 502 is part of a web browser program, such as Netscape Navigator. The operating environment window 502 has loaded a web page off a network such as the Internet. The web page shows a document template 503. The user is then queried to enter information regarding criteria of the document template 503, such as Fname (first name), Minitial (middle initial), etc. Thus, the user enters his or her first name in field 504, middle initial in field 506, last name in field 508, and title or position in field 510. Each field corresponds to a tag, such as an HTML tag, within the web page, which is not shown in FIG. 5a. Referring next to FIG. 5b, the user is queried to enter in more information regarding the criteria of the document template. Thus, the user enters his or her division in field 512, address in field 514, suite/number in field 516 (optional), city in field 518, state in field 520, zip/postal code in field 522, and email address in field 524. Furthermore, the user is able to enter various phone numbers in fields 526.

Once the user has entered in this information, button 528 is clicked. This causes display of the screen shown in FIG. 5c, where the document template has been changed to a document 530 indicative of the information entered in by the user. It is noted that the user only is able to enter in textual information as dictated by the document template. The user is not, for example, permitted to change the logo 532, nor other information, such as the company name, and the font type and size in which the various textual information is shown on the document 530. In this manner, the document template provides a manner by which an administrative user can define the overall characteristics of a given design of a document, such that other users can input information to be formatted in accordance with and as allowed by the document template, but cannot change those characteristics that the document template does not permit changing of. Thus, a consistent "look" exists over all the documents created from a given template, even though all those documents may vary in some ways from one another. If the user is not satisfied with the document 530 in FIG. 5c, he or she may reenter or change information in the various fields 534 of FIG. 5c and FIG. 5d, and reclick button 528 to see the changed information in the

document 530.

Computerized prepress has been described. Although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that any arrangement which is calculated to achieve the same purpose may be substituted for the specific embodiments shown. This application is intended to cover any adaptations or variations of the present invention. For example, the invention is fully intended to cover databases as well as dynamic directories, such that the term directory may be interpreted to encompass any database amenable to the invention in such an embodiment of the invention. Therefore, it is manifestly intended that this invention be limited only by the following claims and equivalents thereof.

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We claim:

1. A computerized prepress method for comprising:

sending log-on information regarding an administrative user from a first client computer

5 to a server computer;

authenticating the administrative user at the server computer;

downloading an authoring program from the server computer to the first client computer;

using the authoring program at the first client computer to create a document template;

sending the document from the first client computer to the server computer; and,

10 saving the document in an internal format at the server computer.

2. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending log-on information regarding a user from a second client computer to a server computer; and,

15 authenticating the user at the server computer.

3. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, further comprising:

downloading an authoring program from the server computer to the second client computer;

20 using the authoring program at the first client computer to create a document consistent with the document template;

sending the document from the second client computer to the server computer;

saving the document in an internal format at the server computer;

translating the document from the internal format to a different suitable prepress format;

25 and,

sending the document in the different format to a printer.

4. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, further comprising:

downloading a form having tags corresponding to criteria in the document template;

30 entering in information at the second client computer corresponding to the tags of the

forms;

replacing the criteria in the document template with the information entered to create a document based on the document template;

sending the document from the second client computer to the server computer;

5 saving the document in an internal format at the server computer;

translating the document from the internal format to a different suitable prepress format;

and,

sending the document in the different format to a printer.

10 5. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein the first and the second client computers and the server computer are communicatively coupled to one another through the Internet.

15 6. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein the first and the second client computers and the server computer are communicatively coupled to one another through an intranet.

20 7. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein the first and the second client computers and the server computer are communicatively coupled to one another through an extranet.

25 8. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein authenticating the user at the server computer comprises associating the user with at least one of a particular directory on the server computer on which the document template is stored, a set of defaults regarding fonts, colors, images and commands available to the user, and an authorization level selected from the group of authorization levels essentially comprising normal, administrator, and demonstration.

30 9. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the authoring program downloaded from the server computer to the first client computer is coded in a language selected

from the group essentially comprising Perl, Java, C++, C, and ActiveX.

10. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the document is selected from the group essentially comprising a business card, a letterhead, an envelope, and a brochure.

5

11. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the authoring program comprises a color palette area to select a color from a palette of colors.

10 12. The computerized prepress method of claim 11, wherein the palette of colors comprises the palette of colors available from one selected from the group essentially comprising Pantone, Toyo, Focaltone, and Tru-Match.

15 13. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein using the authoring program at the first client computer to create a document comprises sending desired text from the client computer to the server computer for translation into an image and sending the image from the server computer back to the first client computer.

20 14. The computerized prepress method of claim 13, wherein the image is in a format selected from the group essentially comprising GIF, TIFF, and JPEG.

15. The computerized prepress method of claim 13, wherein the image has a maximum resolution of 4:1.

25 16. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the document includes one or more images, at least one of the images being in a format selected from the group essentially comprising encapsulated PostScript, TIFF, GIF, and JPEG.

17. The computerized prepress method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the images has a maximum resolution of 1:1.

30

18. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the different format is selected from a group essentially comprising XML, PostScript, HTML, PDF, and PostScript Extreme.

5 19. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein sending the document in the different format to the printer comprises generating an electronic mail for submission to the printer including an attachment comprising the document in the different format.

20. The computerized prepress method of claim 19, wherein the electronic mail is MIME-compliant.

10

21. A computerized prepress system comprising:

a server having stored thereon an authoring program to create a document template and a translation program to translate a document based on the document template to a suitable prepress format;

15 a first client downloading the authoring program from the server to create the document template, which is uploaded to the server;

 a second client to create the document based on the document template, which is uploaded to the server for translation to the suitable prepress format; and,

20

 a printer receiving the document as translated to the suitable prepress format from the server.

22. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the second client is to download the authoring program from the server to create the document based on the document template.

25

23. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the second client is to enter information in a form having tags corresponding to criteria of the document template, such that the criteria are replaced with the information to create the document based on the document template.

30

24. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server, the first and the

second clients and the printer are communicatively coupled to one another through the Internet.

25. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server, the first and the second clients and the printer are communicatively coupled to one another through an intranet.

5

26. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server, the first and the second clients and the printer are communicatively coupled to one another through an extranet.

10 27. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server comprises an Internet world-wide-web server.

28. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server comprises an intranet world-wide-web server.

15 29. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server comprises an extranet world-wide-web server.

30. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program runs on the first client in an Internet world-wide-web browser program.

20 31. The computerized prepress system of claim 30, wherein the browser program is selected from the group essentially comprising Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer.

25 32. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program runs on the client in an intranet world-wide-web browser program.

33. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program runs on the first client in an extranet world-wide-web browser program.

30 34. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program is coded

in a language selected from the group essentially comprising Perl, Java, C++, C, and ActiveX.

35. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the document is selected from the group essentially comprising a business card, a letterhead, an envelope, and a brochure.

5

36. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program comprises a color palette area to select a color from a palette of colors.

10 37. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the suitable prepress format is selected from a group essentially comprising XML, PostScript, HTML, PDF, and PostScript Extreme.

15 38. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the printer receives the document from the server via an electronic mail to which the document is included as an attachment.

20 39. A client computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium;
a communications device;
an operating environment program executed by the processor from the medium; and,
an authoring program downloaded from a server through the communications device and
executed by the processor from the medium within the operating environment program,
such that the authoring program is used to create a document template from which a
document is creatable, the document uploadable to the server through the communications device
for translation to a suitable prepress format and submission to a printer.

25 40. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable medium is selected from the group essentially comprising memory and a nonvolatile storage medium.

30 41. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the communications device is selected from the

group essentially comprising a modem and a network card.

42. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the operating environment program comprises an Internet world-wide-web browser program.

5

43. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the operating environment program comprises an intranet world-wide-web browser program.

10 44. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the operating environment program comprises an extranet world-wide-web browser program.

15 45. A client computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium;
a communications device;
an operating environment program executed by the processor from the medium; and,
means for creating a document within the operating environment program based on a
document template previously created by an authoring program downloaded from a server, such
that the means for creating the document is uploaded to the server through the communications
20 device for translation to a suitable prepress format and submission to a printer.

46. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the means comprises an authoring program to
create the document based on the document template.

25 47. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the computer-readable medium is selected from
the group essentially comprising memory and a nonvolatile storage medium.

48. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the communications device is selected from the
group essentially comprising a modem and a network card.

30

49. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the operating environment program comprises an Internet world-wide-web browser program.

50. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the operating environment program comprises
5 an intranet world-wide-web browser program.

51. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the operating environment program comprises an extranet world-wide-web browser program.

10 52. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the means comprises a program to enter information in a form having tags corresponding to criteria of the document template, such that the criteria are replaced with the information to create the document based on the document template.

15 53. A server computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium;
a communications device;
an authoring program stored on the computer-readable medium for downloading through
20 the communications device and use by a client to create a document template to be utilized to create a document; and,
a translation program executed by the processor from the computer-readable medium to translate the document to a suitable prepress format and send the document as translated to a printer through the communications device.

25 54. The server computer of claim 53, wherein the computer-readable medium is selected from the group essentially comprising memory and a nonvolatile storage medium.

30 55. The server computer of claim 53, wherein the communications device is selected from the group essentially comprising a modem and a network card.

56. A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for downloading to a client computer from a server computer and for execution on the client computer within an operating environment program, the program comprising means for creating a document template to be utilized to create a document, which is uploaded to the server through a communications device for translation to a suitable prepress format and submission to a printer.

57. A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for execution on a server computer, the program comprising:

10 means downloadable to a client computer for creating a document template to be utilized to create a document; and,

means for translating the document to a suitable prepress format and for sending the document as translated to a printer through a communications device of the server computer.

58. A computerized prepress method for comprising:

15 sending log-on information regarding a user from a client computer to a server computer; authenticating the user at the server computer;

downloading an authoring program from the server computer to the client computer;

using the authoring program at the client computer to create a document;

sending the document from the client computer to the server computer;

20 saving the document in an internal format at the server computer;

translating the document from the internal format to a different suitable prepress format;

and,

sending the document in the different format to a printer.

25 59. The method of claim 58, wherein the different format is selected from a group essentially comprising XML, PostScript, HTML, PDF, and PostScript Extreme.

60. A computerized prepress system comprising:

a server having stored thereon an authoring program to create a document and a

30 translation program to translate the document to a suitable prepress format;

a client downloading the authoring program from the server to create the document, which is uploaded to the server for translation to the suitable prepress format; and,

a printer receiving the document as translated to the suitable prepress format from the server.

5

61. The system of claim 60, wherein the suitable prepress format is selected from a group essentially comprising XML, PostScript, HTML, PDF, and PostScript Extreme.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Administration and search and replace of computerized prepress. In one embodiment, a computerized prepress system including four components: a server, a first client, a second client and a printer. The server has stored thereon an authoring program to create a document template, and a translation program to translate a document based on the document template to a suitable prepress format. The first client downloads the authoring program from the server to create the document template, and then uploads the document to the server. The second client creates the document based on the document template, which is uploaded to the server for translation to the suitable prepress format. The printer receives the document as translated to the suitable prepress format from the server.

Express Mail™ indicia - do not mail before [redacted] 1998

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL185283894US

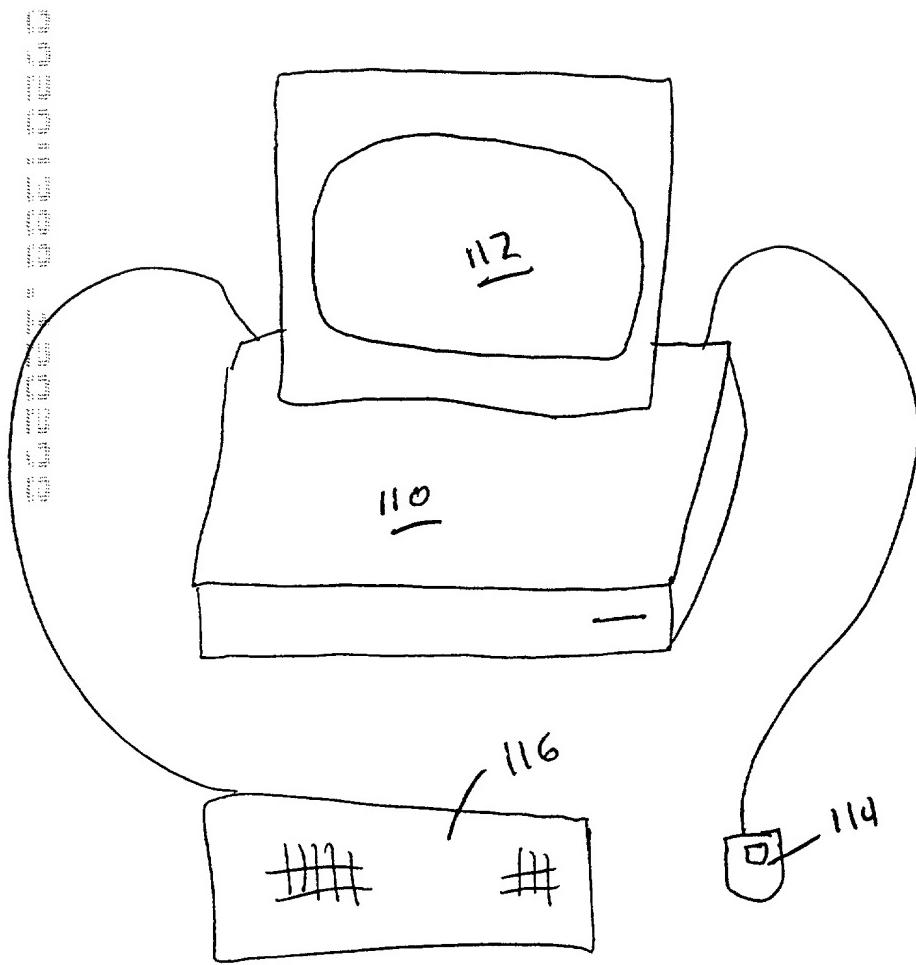
Date of Deposit: December 2, 1998

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"
service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is
addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231

Printed Name Chris Hammond

Signature Chris Hammond

FIG 1



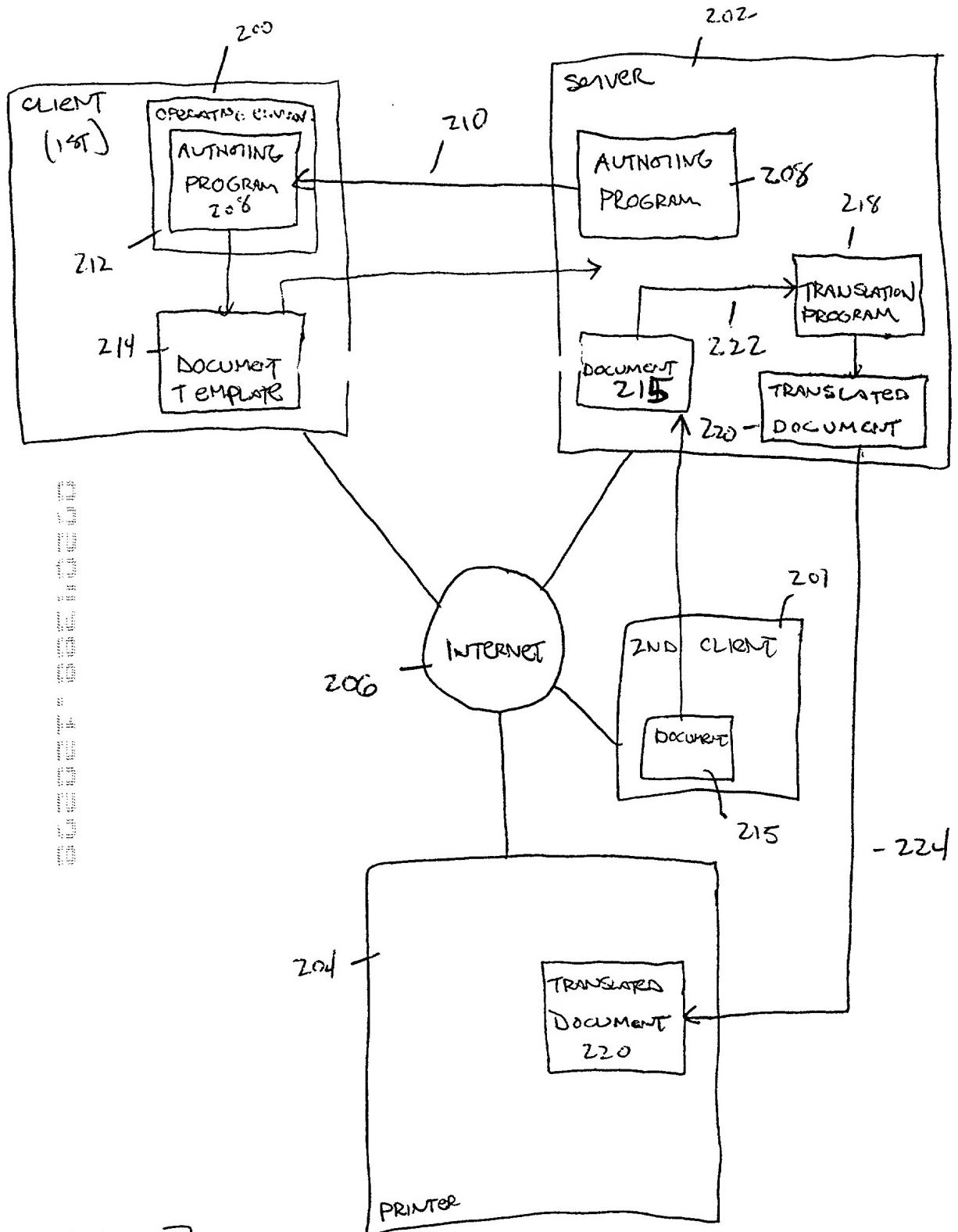
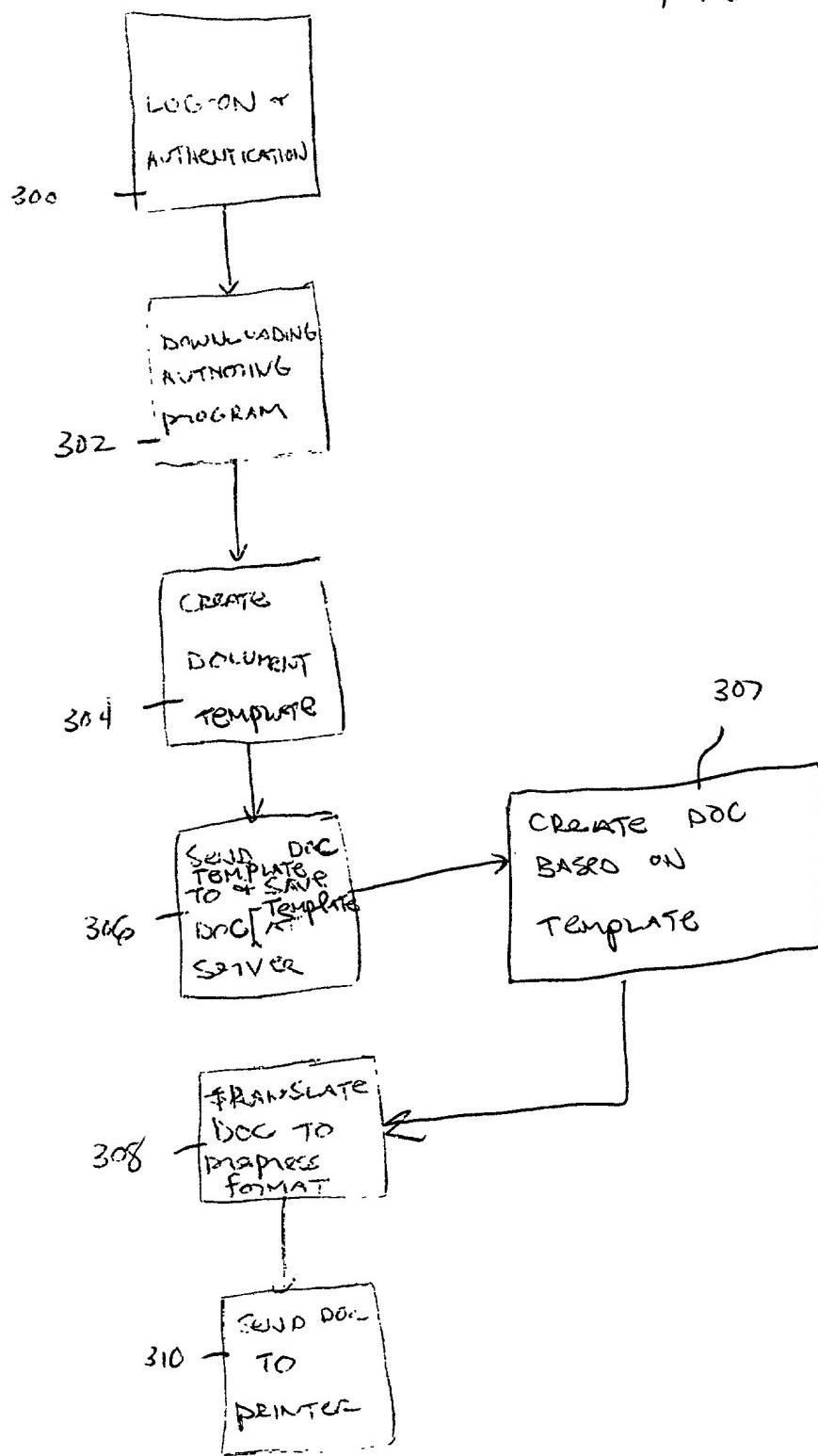


FIG 2

FIG 3



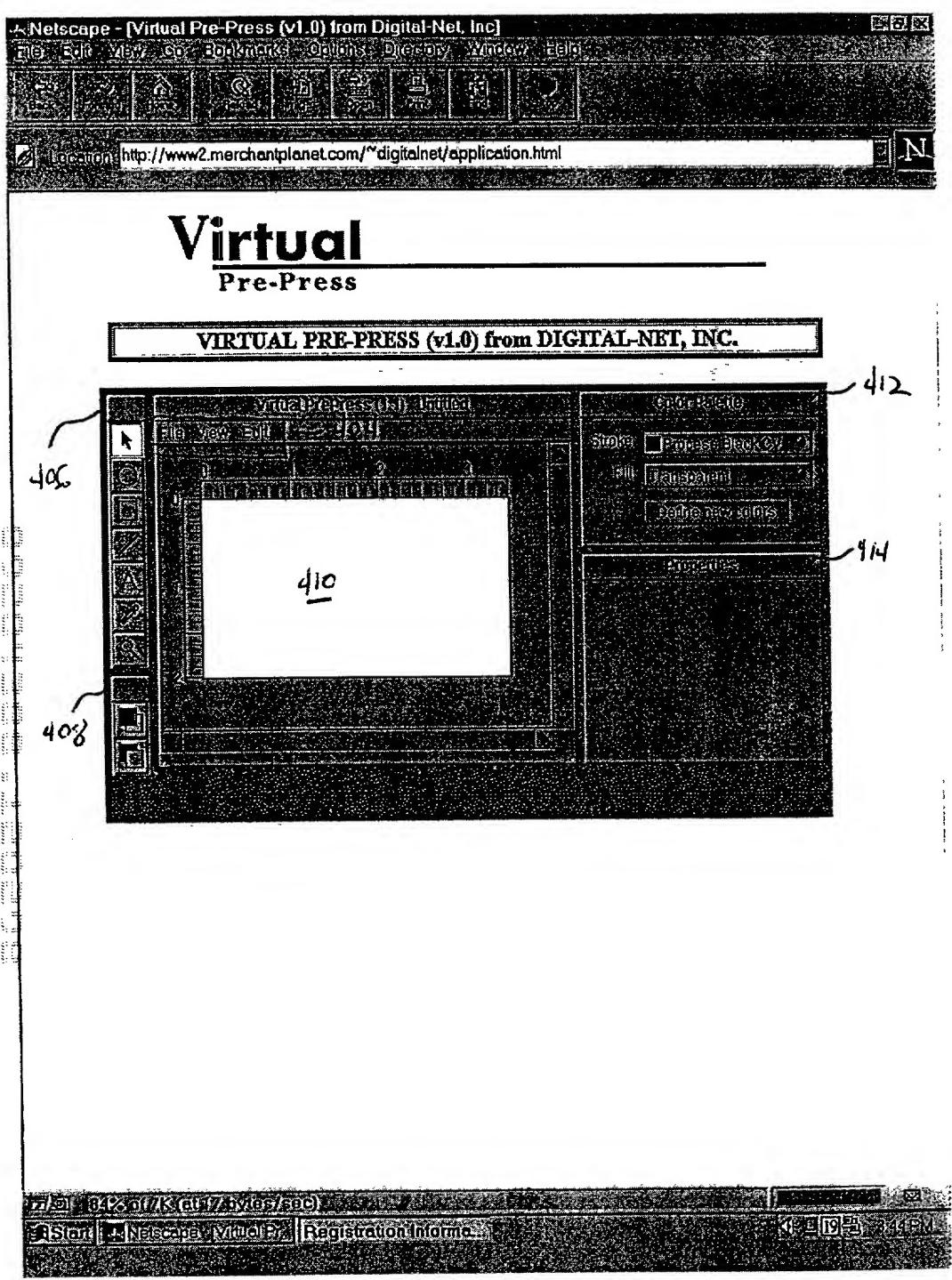


FIG 4a

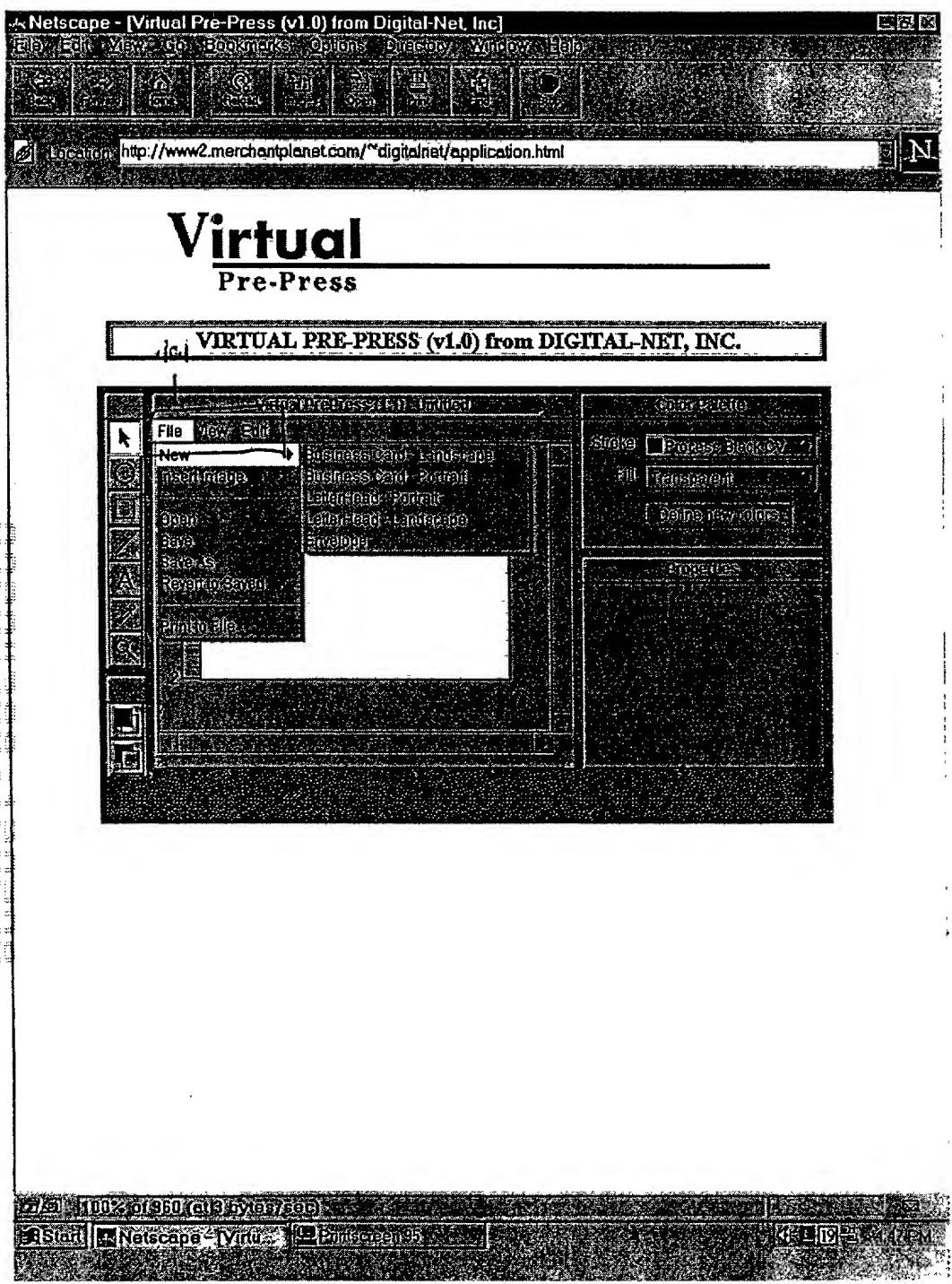


FIG 4b

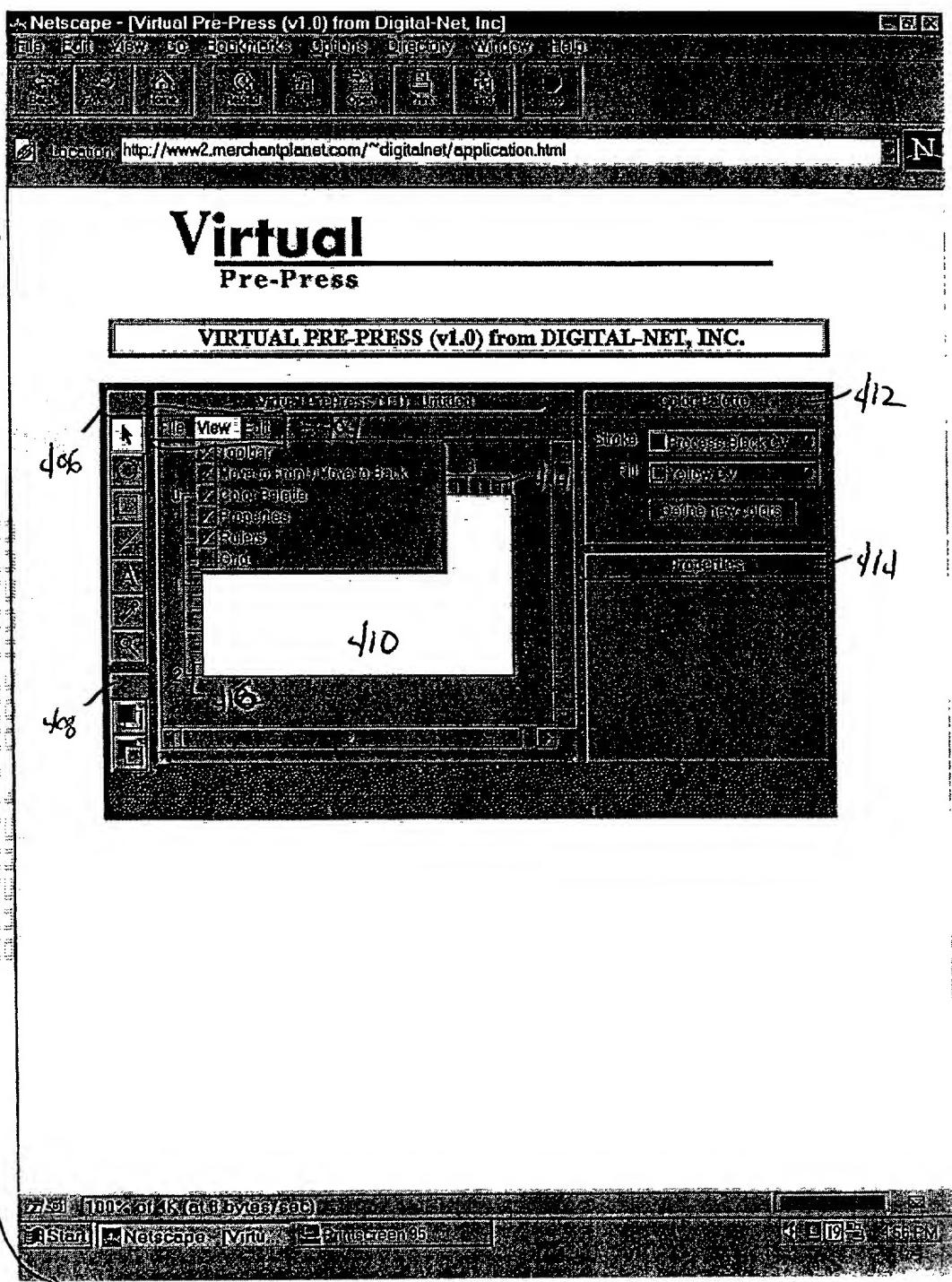
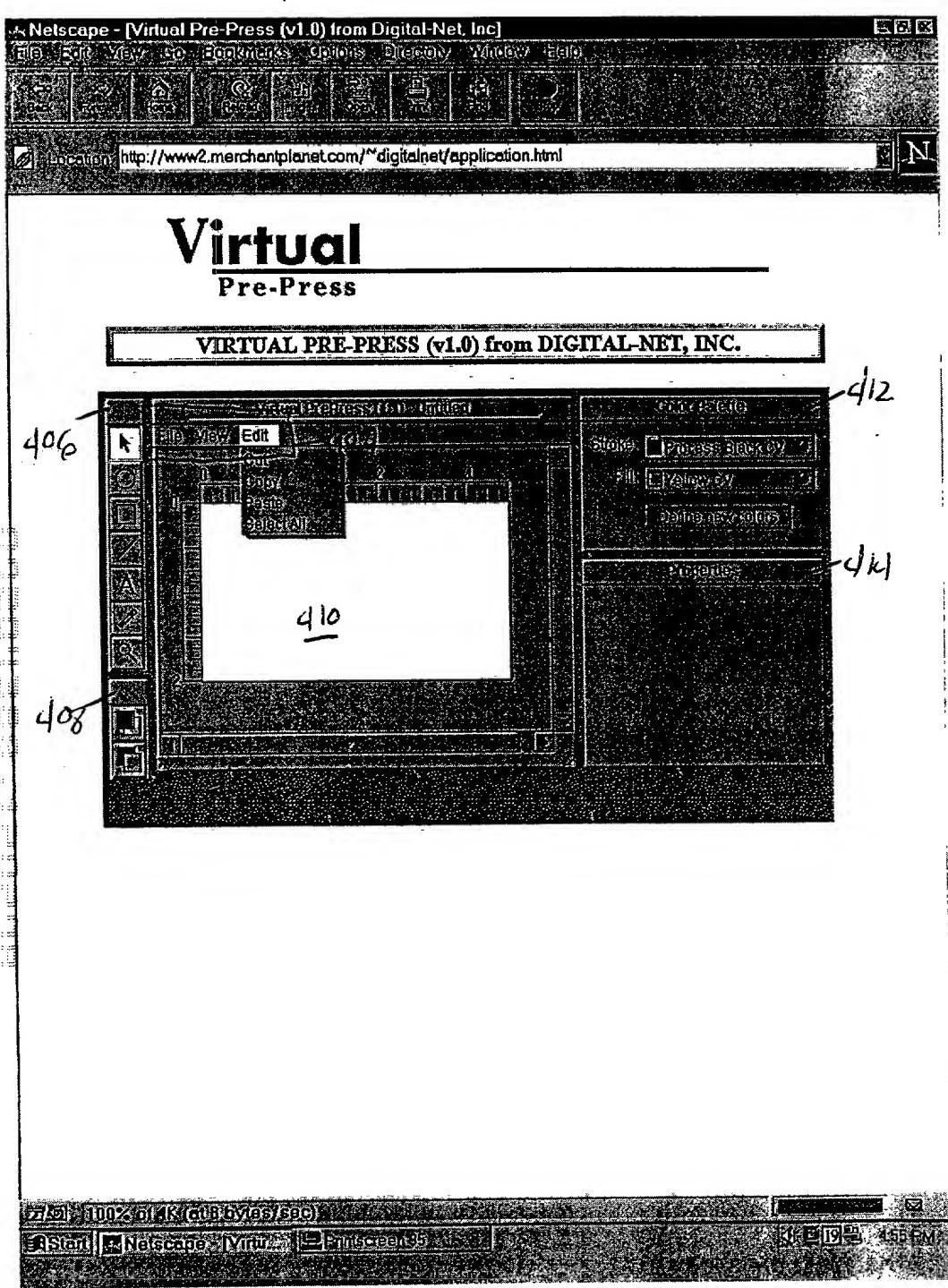


FIG 4c



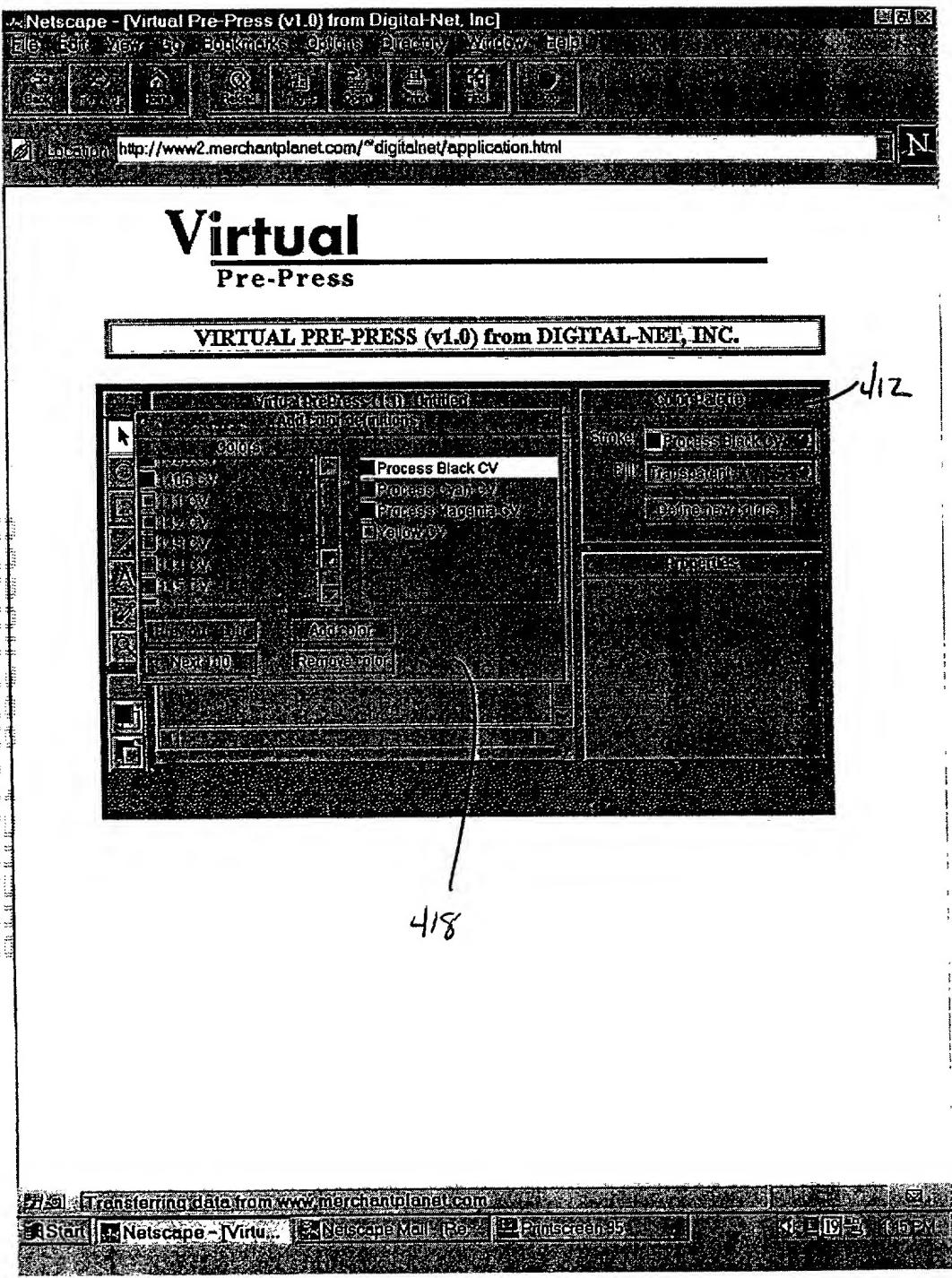
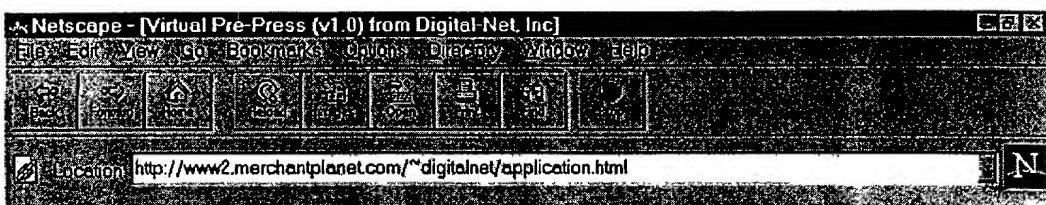


FIG 8e



Virtual Pre-Press

VIRTUAL PRE-PRESS (v1.0) from DIGITAL-NET, INC.

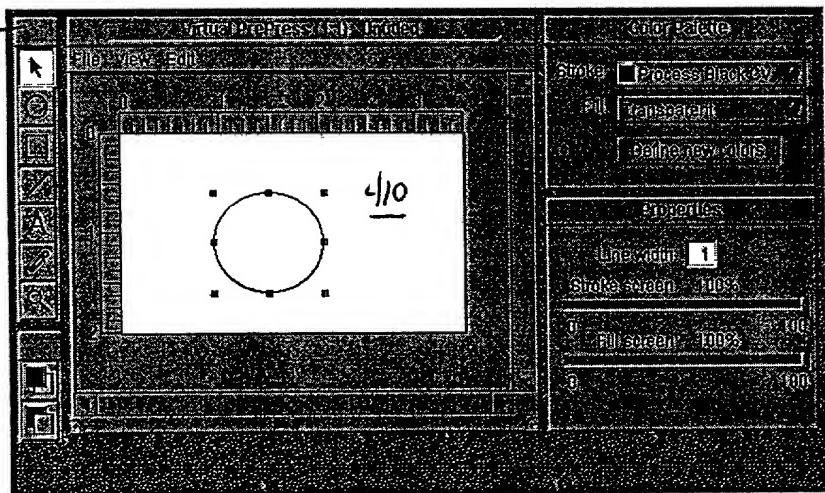


FIG A\$F

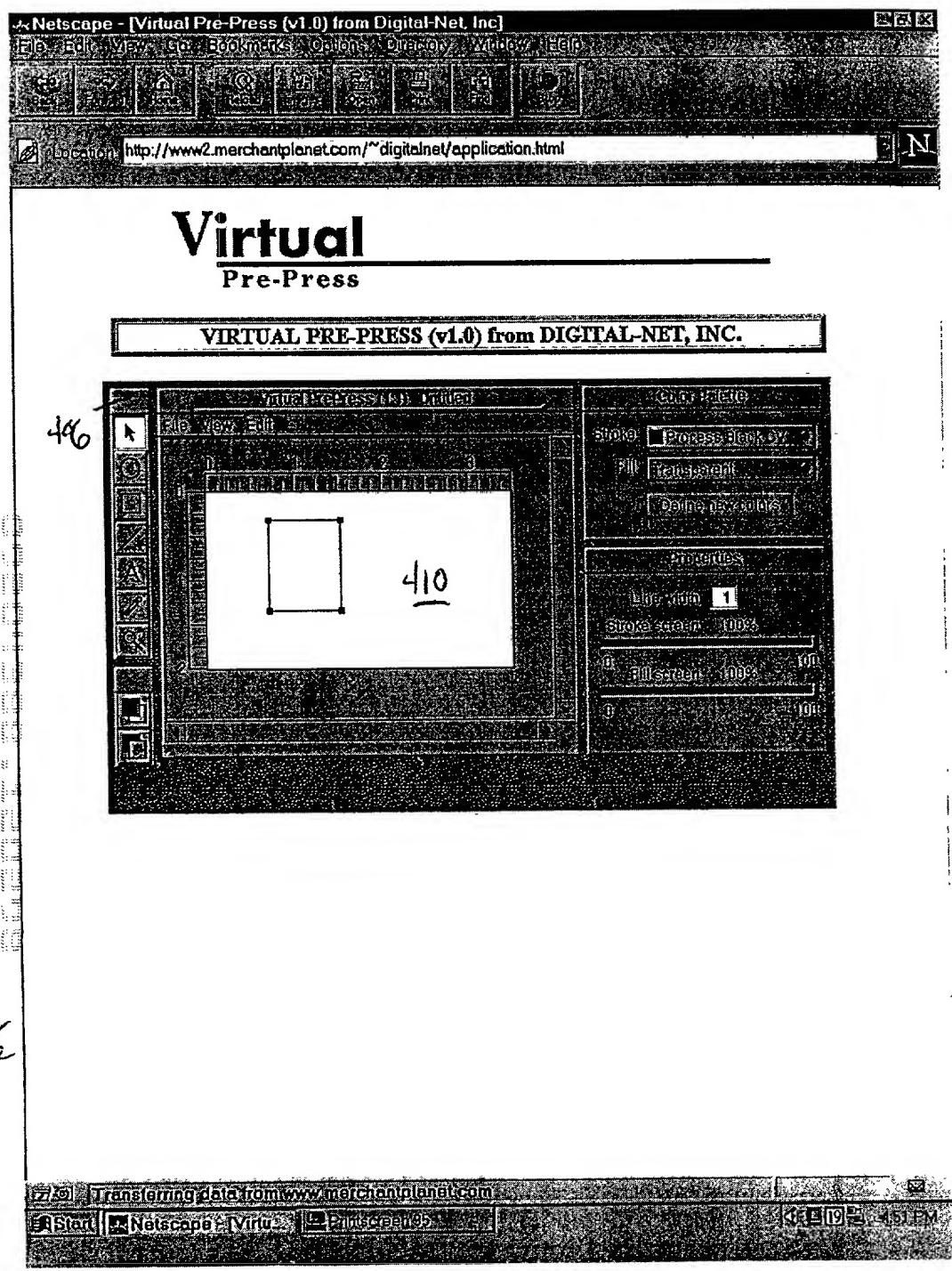


FIG 4g

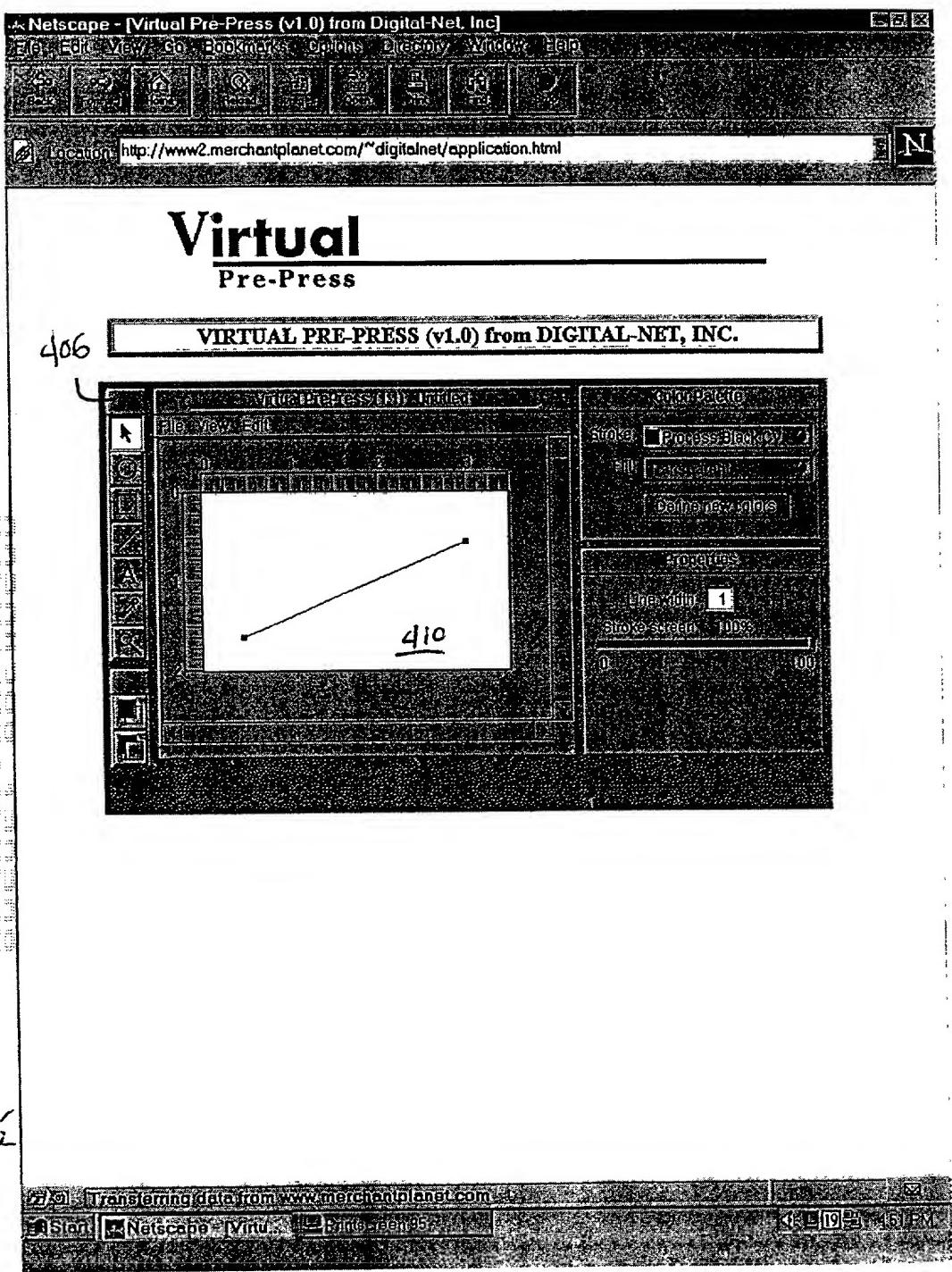
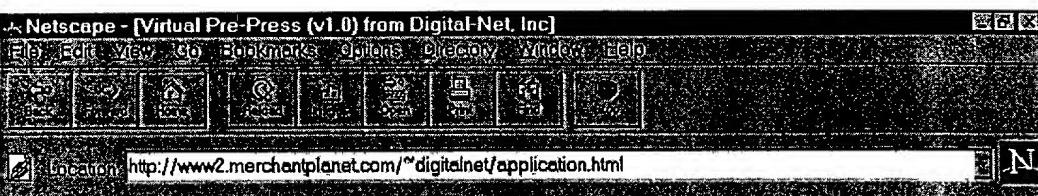


FIG 4h

r402



Virtual Pre-Press

VIRTUAL PRE-PRESS (v1.0) from DIGITAL-NET, INC.

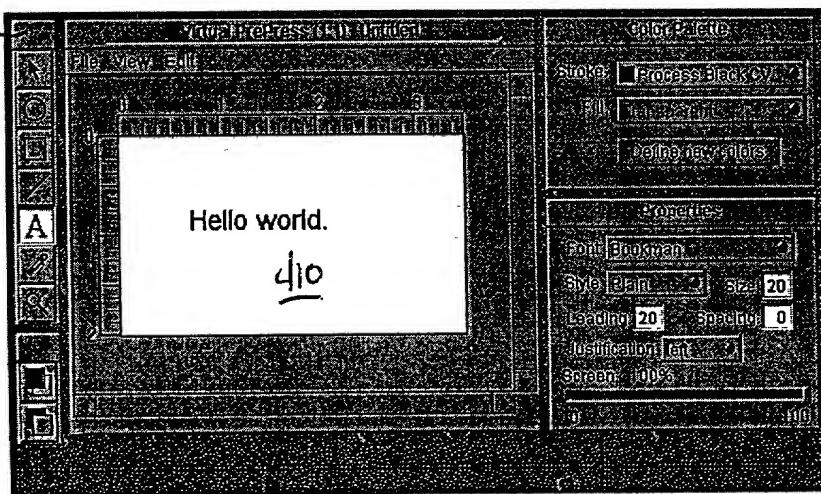


FIG 4:

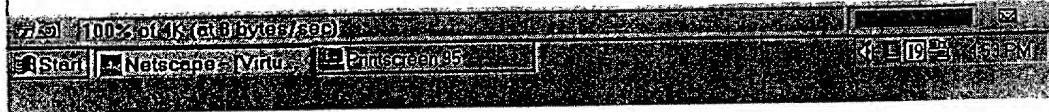
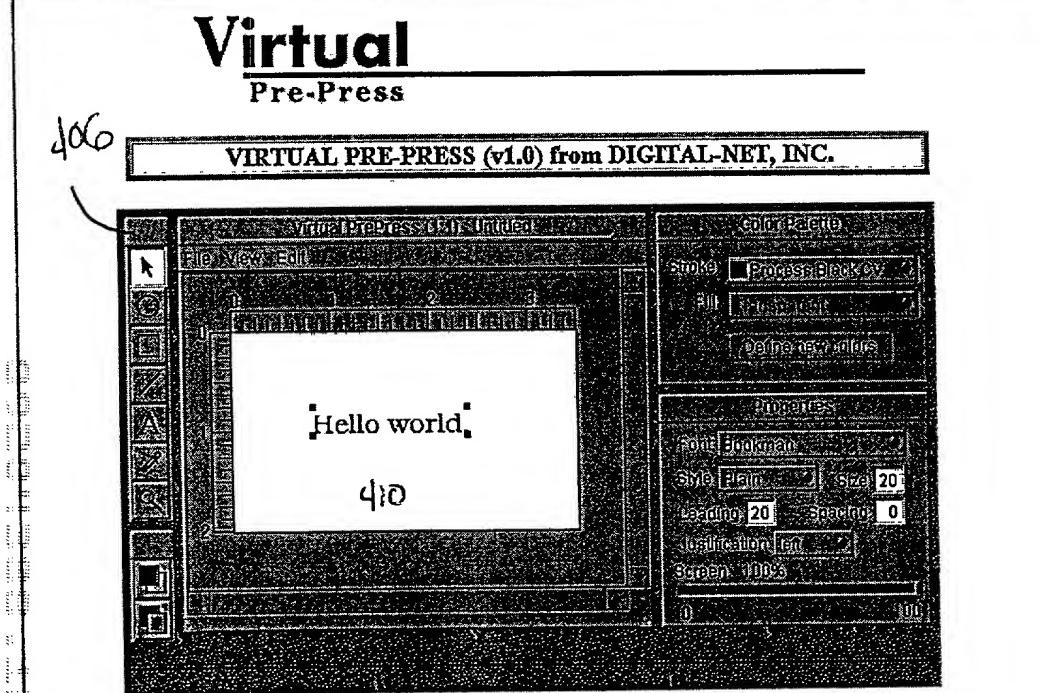
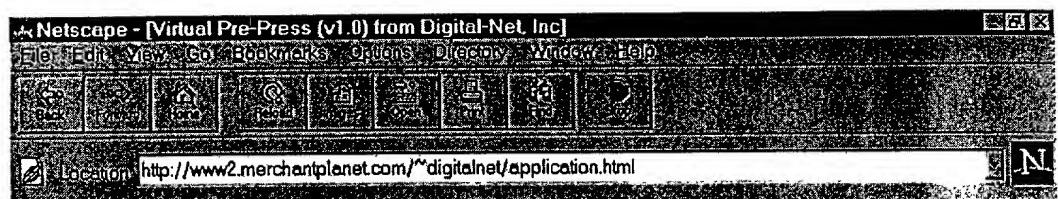


FIG 4j

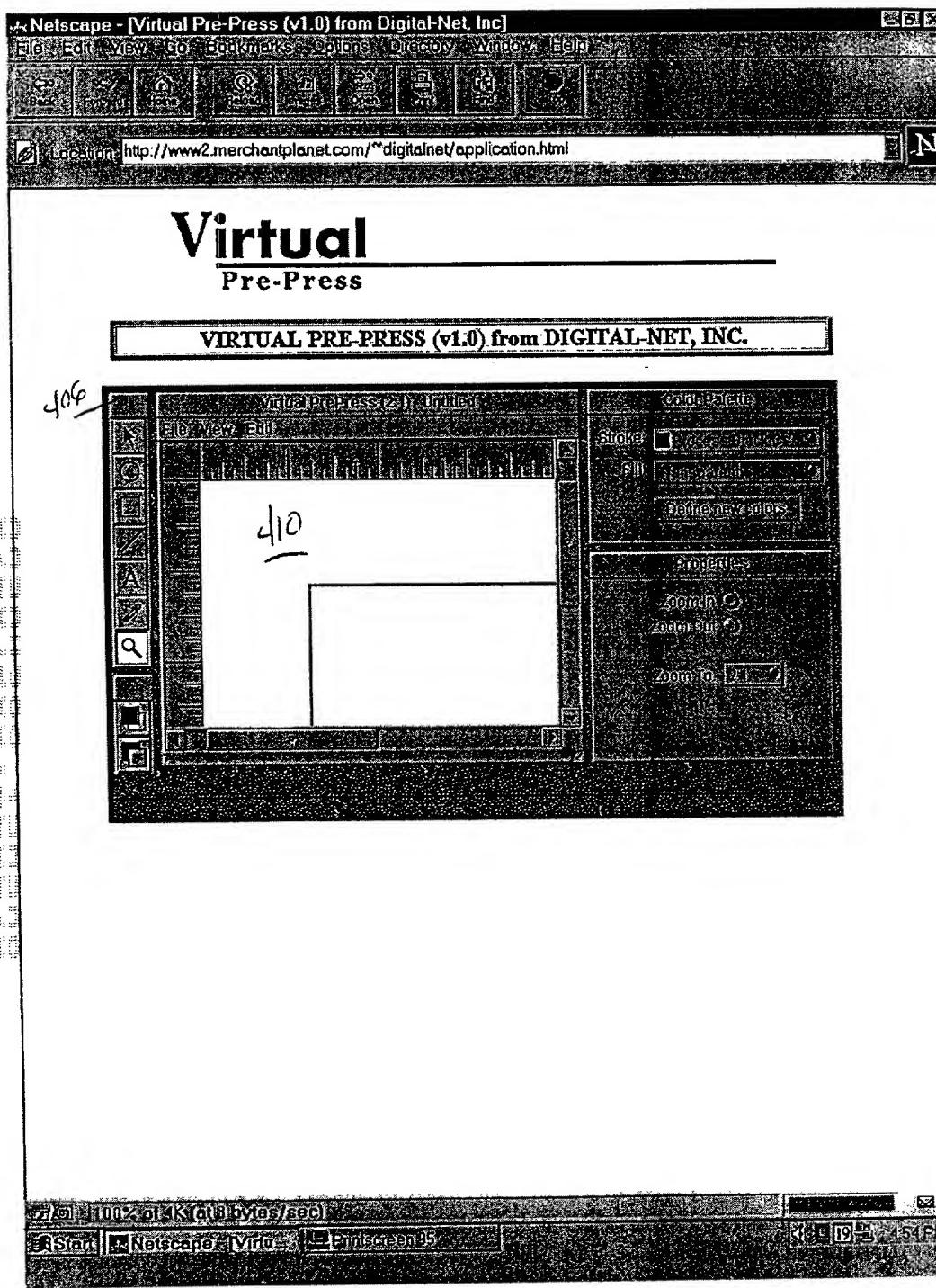


FIG 4k

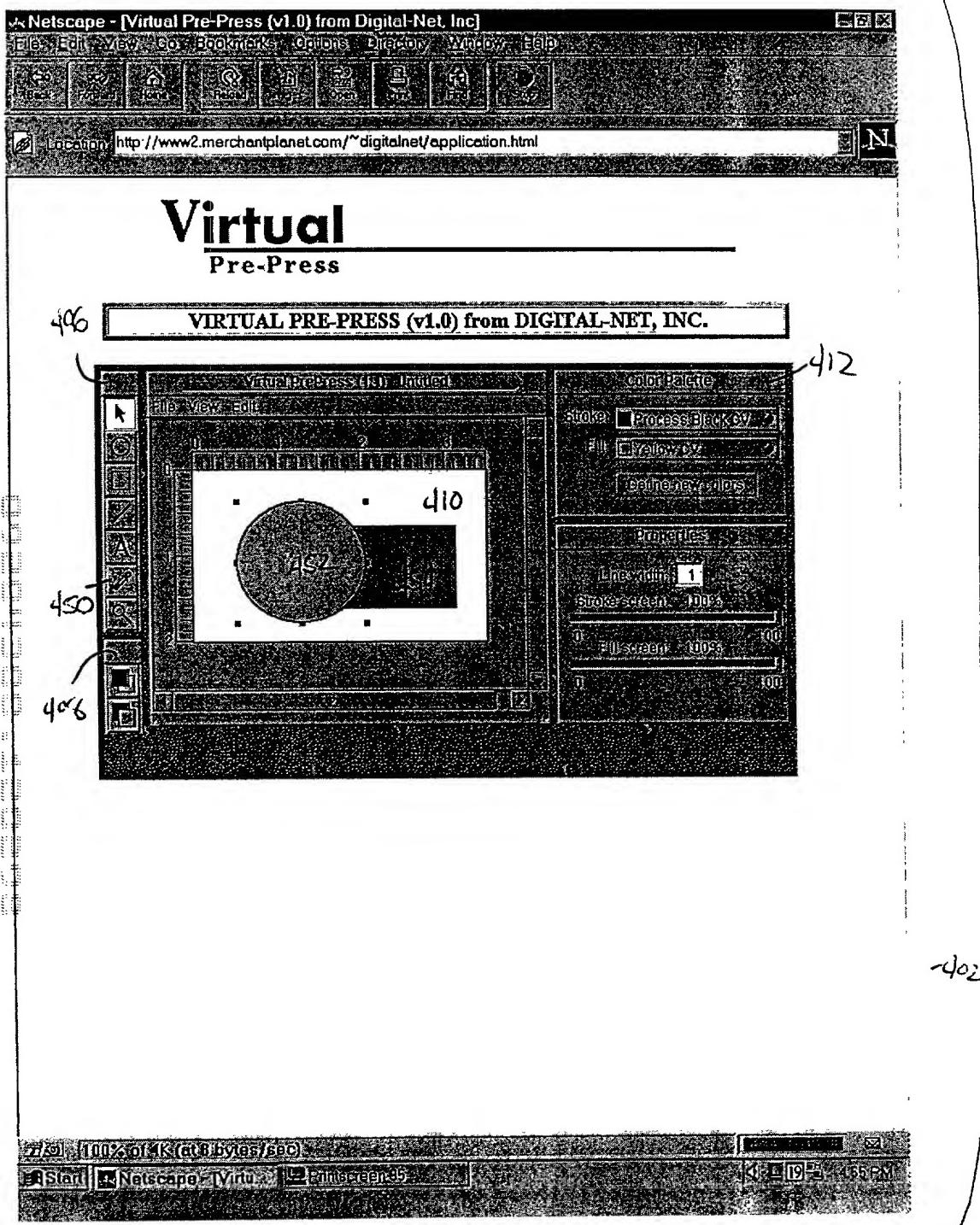
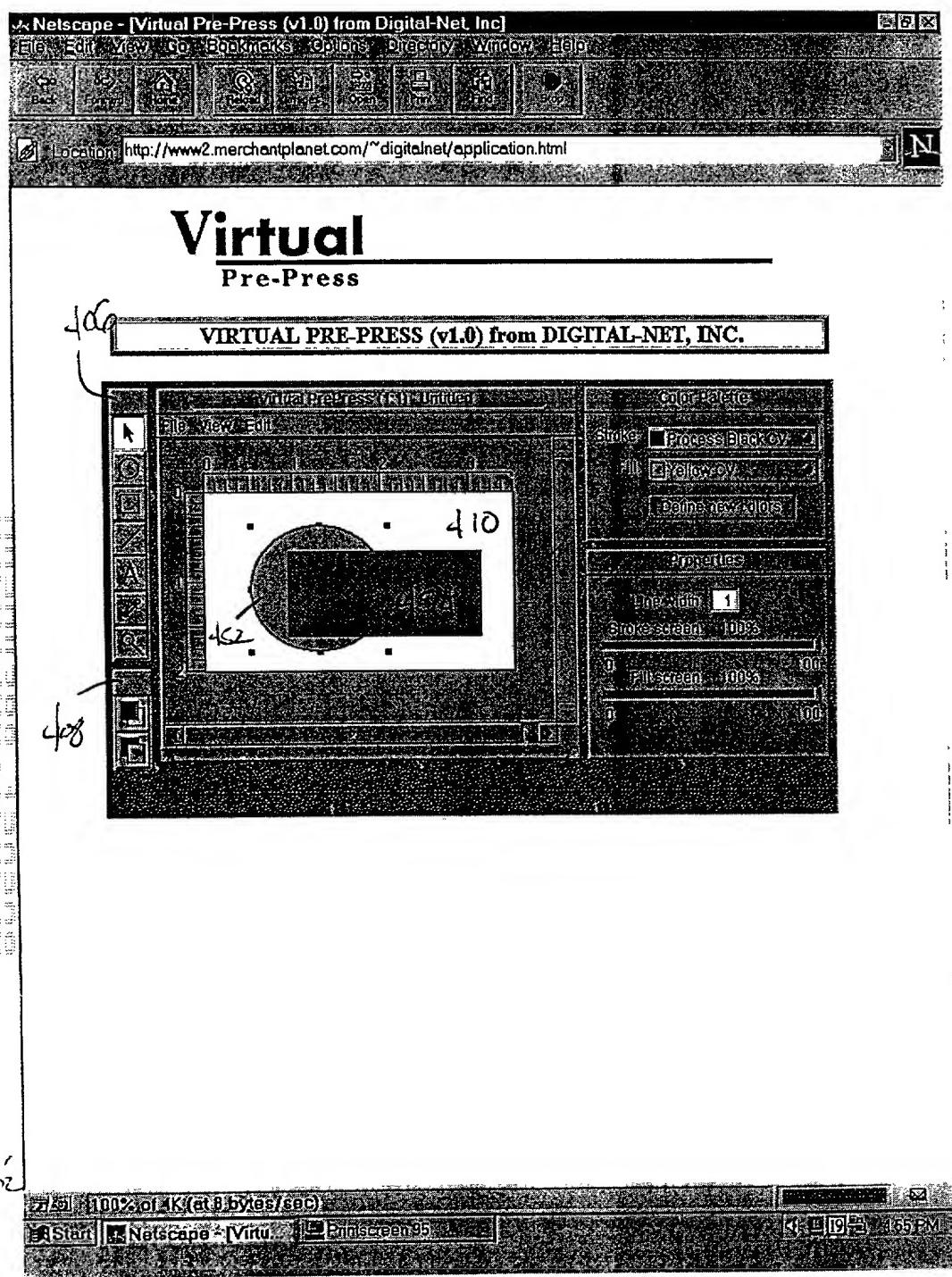


FIG 4L





GLOBAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Virtual Pre-Press Business Card Ordering System

(Click here for Instructions)

GLOBAL INSURANCE COMPANY

FName MInitial LName

Title or Position

1234 Main Street, Suite 56
Anytown, MN 55000 USA

502

Tel (123) 456-7890

Fax (123) 456-0000

Email FNLName@globalins.com

3

Please Fill out the following form with information as you wish it to appear on your business card.

Leave fields blank that do not apply.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

First Name: - 504

Middle Initial: - 506

Last Name: - 508

Title or Position: - 510

CONTACT INFORMATION

1
502

500

FIG 5a

Division/Dept.: 512

Address: 514

Suite/Number:
(optional) 516

City: 518

State: 520

Zip/Postal Code: 522

Email: 524
Email Format: finitial.last@globalins.com

Please Fill in your Telephone numbers. Leave fields blank that do not apply.

Name:

Number:

Telephone

()-- Ext:

Fax

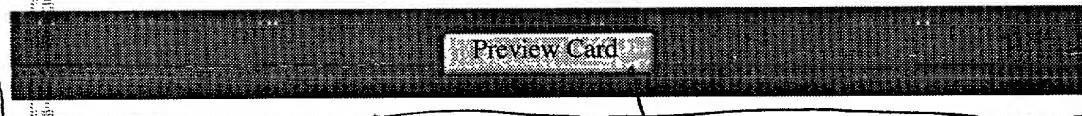
()-- Ext:

-empty-

()-- Ext:

empty

()-- Ext:



(Preview Card)

Preview Card

526

502

500

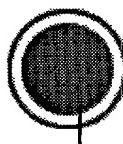
FIG 5b



GLOBAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Virtual Pre-Press Business Card Ordering System

(Click here for [Instructions](#))



GLOBAL INSURANCE COMPANY

S32

Michael Johnson
National Sales Manager

2002 Sibley Avenue, Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55101 USA

Tel (123) 456-7890
Fax (123) 456-0000
Email mjohnson@globalins.com

S30

A

Please review your card above. This preview above will be **EXACTLY** how your business cards will be printed. If there is a mistake correct the information in the form below and click on the "Preview" button to preview the card again. When you are satisfied with the information shown on the card **GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE AND FILL IN YOUR ORDER AND DELIVERY INFORMATION** then click on the "Submit Card Order" button.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

First Name:

Middle Initial:

Last Name:

Title or Position:

) S34

F16
SC

CONTACT INFORMATION

Division/Dept:

Address:

Suite/Number:
(optional)

City:

State:

Zip/Postal Code:

Email:

Email Format:

S34

-S02

Please Fill in your Telephone numbers. Leave fields blank that do not apply.

-S00

Name:

Number:

Telephone:

(123) 456-7890 Ext:

Fax:

(123) 456-0000 Ext:

-empty:

() - Ext:

-empty:

() - Ext:

ORDER & SHIPPING INFORMATION

Number of Cards: 250

528

Type:

- Normal Inter-Office Delivery
- UPS 2nd Day Air
- UPS Next Day Air

Deliver to:

- Address on Business Cards.
- Alternative Address shown below.

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Address:

Suite/Number:

City:

State:

Zip/Postal Code:

VERIFICATION INFORMATION

Cost Center:

Employee I.D.#:

(Finish)

1502

PIG SJ

{ 500

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: ADMINISTRATION AND SEARCH AND REPLACE OF COMPUTERIZED PREPRESS.

The specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (see page 3 attached hereto).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

No such applications have been filed.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

No such applications have been filed.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

No such applications have been filed.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Anglin, J. Michael	Reg No 24,916	Forrest, Bradley A.	Reg No. 30,837	Lundberg, Steven W.	Reg. No. 30,568
Arora, Suneel	Reg No 42,267	Hale, Jeffrey D.	Reg. No 40,012	Mates, Robert E.	Reg. No. 35,271
Bianchi, Timothy E	Reg No 39,610	Harris, Robert J.	Reg. No 37,346	McCrackin, Ann M.	Reg. No. 42,858
Billion, Richard E	Reg. No 32,836	Holloway, Sheryl S	Reg No. 37,850	Padys, Danny J.	Reg. No. 35,635
Black, David W.	Reg No. 42,331	Huebsch, Joseph C.	Reg. No 42,673	Polglaze, Daniel J.	Reg. No. 39,801
Brennan, Thomas F	Reg No. 35,075	Kalis, Janal M.	Reg. No 37,650	Schwegman, Micheal L.	Reg. No. 25,816
Brooks, Edward J., III	Reg No 40,925	Klma-Silberg, Catherine I.	Reg. No. 40,052	Sieffert, Kent J	Reg. No. 41,312
Clark, Barbara J	Reg No. 38,107	Kluth, Daniel J.	Reg No. 32,146	Slifer, Russell D.	Reg. No. 39,838
Drake, Eduardo E	Reg No. 40,594	Lacy, Rodney L.	Reg. No. 41,136	Terry, Kathleen R.	Reg. No. 31,884
Dryja, Michael A	Reg No 39,662	Leffert, Thomas W.	Reg. No 40,697	Viksnins, Ann S.	Reg. No. 37,748
Embreton, Janet E	Reg No 39,665	Lemaire, Charles A.	Reg. No. 36,198	Woessner, Warren D.	Reg. No. 30,440
Fogg, David N	Reg No 35,138	Litman, Mark A.	Reg No 26,390		

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/organization/who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. to the contrary.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A. at the address indicated below:

P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone No. (612)373-6900

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of joint inventor number 1 : **Steven Jecha**
Citizenship: **United States of America** Residence: **Minneapolis, MN**
Post Office Address: **5253 Beard Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410**

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Steven Jecha

Full Name of joint inventor number 2 : **Winfield A. Mitchell**
Citizenship: **United States of America** Residence: **Minneapolis, MN**
Post Office Address: **5109 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417**

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Winfield A. Mitchell

Full Name of inventor:
Citizenship: Residence:
Post Office Address:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
[Signature]

Full Name of inventor:
Citizenship: Residence:
Post Office Address:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
[Signature]

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application;
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.